

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 AID-05 /082 W

----- 019456

R 240500Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6433

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELEGADA

USMISSION USNATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, PO, XZ

SUBJECT: SOARES IN SWEDEN

REF: STOCKHOLM 6328 R 151220Z

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES VISITED STOCKHOLM DECEMBER 18-19 AT THE INVITATION OF THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. WHILE IN STOCKHOLM.
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SOARES,

WHO WAS HERE AS PART OF HIS TOUR OF WESTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS, MET WITH PARTY CHAIRMAN (AND PRIME MINISTER) OLOF PALME, LO CHAIRMAN GUNNAR NILSSON, AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY STEN ANDERSSON.

2. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, SOARES TOLD REPORTERS THAT HIS PURPOSE IN VISITING THE VARIOUS EUROPEAN CAPITALS HAS BEEN TO EXPLAIN THE PRESENT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL FOLLOWING THE ABORTIVE COUP OF NOVEMBER 25. THE SOCIALIST LEADER GAVE A RATHER POSITIVE PICTURE OF THE CURRENT PORTUGAL SCENE. THE EXTREME LEFTWING IN THE ARMED FORCES, HE SAID, HAS BEEN CRUSHED, ANTI-GOVERNMENTAL JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN WEDED OUT OF THE MEDIA, AND LAW AND ORDER HAS BEEN RESTORED. THERE IS NOW TOTAL PRESS FREEDOM, HE CONTINUED, THE PROSPECTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION ARE GOOD, AND SWEDISH TOURISTS CAN NOW VISIT PORTUGAL AGAIN.

3. SOARES DESCRIBED THE ABORTIVE COUP AS AN EFFORT BY "CERTAIN PARTS" OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY TO TRANSFORM PORTUGAL INTO A COMMUNIST MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. HOWEVER, SOARES SAID HE WOULD OPPOSE FORCING THE COMMUNISTS OUT OF THE LISBON GOVERNMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT MANY PORTUGUESE WORKERS HAD VOTED FOR THE PCP IN THE ELECTIONS, AND THAT THEREFORE THEIR VOICE SHOULD BE REPRESENTED IN THE GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE PCP "WILL MOVE CLOSER TO ITS DEMOCRATIC SISTER PARTIES IN ITALY AND SPAIN". WHILE PRAISING "PROGRESSIVE" MILITARY FIGURES FOR THEIR ROLE IN DEFENDING DEMOCRACY, SOARES SAID HE BELIEVES THAT THE MILITARY ROLE SHOULD NOW DIMINISH, ADDING "EVERY RESOLUTION WHICH WANTS TO INTRODUCE DEMOCRACY MUST BUILD ON THE PRINCIPLE OF CIVILIAN SUPREMACY OVER THE MILITARY." END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. BERNT CARLSSON, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY OF THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT SOARES WAS EXTREMELY OPTIMISTIC IN HIS ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT PORTUGUESE SCENE.
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CARLSSON QUOTED HIM AS SAYING "WE HAVE WON." SOARES REPORTEDLY SAID PORTUGAL'S MAJOR PROBLEM NOW IS ECONOMIC; ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT ASK EXPLICITLY FOR AID FROM THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO AVERT ECONOMIC COLLAPSE. WHILE NOT MENTIONING THE U.S. BY NAME, CARLSSON SAID SOARES IMPLICITLY EXPRESSED HIS HOPE FOR INCREASED U.S. ASSISTANCE. DRAWING ON INFORMATION

CONTAINED STATE 297463, AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED TO
CARLSSON THAT USG HAD, IN FACT, GIVEN VERY SUBSTANTIAL
ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, AND FURTHER AID IS
ENVISIONED.
STRAUSZ-HUPE'

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